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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 7, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U. S. railroads during the week ended August 2 totaled an estimated 17.6 billion ton-miles, 2.5 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 31 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 545 billion ton-miles, 2.3 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 2 totaled 429,504 cars, 9.5 percent below 1979, but 1.8 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 17.5 percent in the East, 3.2 percent in the South, and 7.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 18 of the 21 commodity groups were down, although coal loadings were up 7,389 cars, or 7.0 percent, and grain showed an increase of 5,220 cars, or 17.4 percent. Thirteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended July 26 totaled 30,167 cars, down 14.2 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 56,326 trailers and/or containers, 9.0 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 30 weeks of the year was 962,872 cars, 10.2 percent lower than last year, and 1,753,983 trailers and/or containers, down 7.4 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/2/80.

	Loadings in Week ended August 2, 1980		Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	35,263	I	5,220	17.4	I	2,418	7.4
Other farm products	4,222	I	815	23.9	D	399	8.6
Metallic ores	27,987	D	13,525	32.6	D	3	0.0
Coal	112,907	I	7,389	7.0	I	2,111	1.9
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,026	D	4,718	23.9	I	183	1.2
Nonmetallic minerals	14,916	D	1,588	9.6	D	179	1.2
Grain mill products	16,464	D	1,208	6.8	D	629	3.7
Food and kindred products	18,225	D	75	0.4	I	1,127	6.6
Primary forest products	20,438	D	77	0.4	I	662	3.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,372	D	3,151	25.2	I	436	4.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,617	D	1,777	7.9	I	799	4.0
Chemicals and allied products	24,639	D	2,690	9.8	I	517	2.1
Petroleum products	5,218	D	1,338	20.4	D	261	4.8
Stone, clay and glass products	15,308	D	3,971	20.6	D	41	0.3
Coke	4,018	D	3,144	43.9	D	325	7.5
Metals and products	14,765	D	4,922	25.0	I	1,248	9.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	10,180	D	3,342	24.7	D	996	8.9
Waste and scrap materials	10,015	D	4,287	30.0	I	425	4.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,477	D	2,301	18.0	I	438	4.4
All other carloads	39,247	D	6,032	13.3	I	205	0.5
LCL traffic	200	D	252	55.8	I	6	3.1
Total Cars Loaded	429,504	D	44,974	9.5	I	7,742	1.8
Corresponding week of 1979	474,478						

	1980	1979	%	Change
Total Cars Loaded (31 weeks)	13,458,562	14,112,378	D	4.6
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
30 weeks cumulative	527.2	514.5	I	2.5
Week ended August 2	17.6	18.1	D	2.5
31 weeks cumulative	544.8	532.6	I	2.3

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